OFFICIAL BEE GEES FAN CLUB

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National Secretary,
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Dear

It's so nice to be writing a Newsletter to you — it's my first one since my friend Maureen Du-Four and I started to run your Fan Club. Every day we have talked about writing a Newsletter, but there was so much backlog of mail since Trees left that we felt we should get that sorted out first. We are still not quite straight, but we decided to take the plunge.

I suppose by now you must have guessed from my name that I am the boys' mother. It means that I see a lot of them during my work time, as well as when I am not on duty. But I wouldn't have it any other way, either as a Fan Club secretary, or as a mother.

I could tell you what I look like, but because so many of you have written in asking for a picture of Barry's Linda I chose this one of them together. Just by co-incidence I happen to be on the other side of Barry, so it at least takes care of having to try to tell you too much about myself.

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INTRODUCING GEOFF BRIDGFORD

If you read the music papers, you will already know. If not, then you will be surprised to know that there are once again four Bee Gees. Who is the fourth? His name is Geoff Bridgford, and he is the group's new drummer. Geoff is tall, with long dark wavy hair, and he smiles a lot. He was the drummer with Tin Tin, the group that Maurice and Lu's brother, Billy, have been producing. He came on the American tour, and he has also been playing on recording sessions ever since last September, So it just seemed natural that he would be asked if he would like to be a full-time member of the group.

By a strange co-incidence Geoff once replaced Colin Petersen in another group. That was when Colin left an Australian group called Steve and the Board, to come to London to play with the Bee Gees. Geoff stepped in then, and now he has done it a second time.

Geoff was not leaving Tin Tin because he was unhappy with their music. On the contrary, he is very pleased about their success. Their record of "Toast and Marmalade for Tea" is doing really well, in fact this week it is No. 15 in the USA and still on the way up.

"HOW CAN YOU MEND A BROKEN HEART"

Well, you've all heard the Brother's new single, "How Can You Mend A Broken Heart". It was released a few days ago. What do you think? Barry, Robin and Maurice would really like to know how you feel about the record, or about any record of theirs. They are not like some of the musicians that I meet as Mrs. Bee Gee – some of those who are happy to tell you that they don't make records for their fans, but for themselves! They really want to know more about what you like, and what you don't like so that they can keep in touch with your feelings. So why not write and let them know, c/o your Fan Club?

The song was written by Barry and Robin, but Mo got his own back in the songwriters' stakes, because one of the songs he wrote on his own, "Country Woman" is on the other side. But don't ask me which one I like best, we wouldn't want any more arguments in the family.

"How Can You Mend A Broken Heart" is the song the Brothers chose as a follow-up to "Lonely Days", which as I am sure you know, got to No. 1. in America, jumping over George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord".

It was just like the old days, wondering if their record would push the Beatles off the top.

Both songs on the new single are among the 25 tracks that they recorded for the next album, "Trafalgar" (just wait until you see the picture in the middle). The hardest part has been choosing which twelve songs should go on the album, Barry told me. I've heard them, and all I can say is that it is a pity that there is not room for all of them.

Barry said: "So far everything seems to have been so rushed, and we have been taking so much time over our new album, that we haven't been able to plan a tour of England. But we intend to, just as soon as we can. Don't think we have forgotten you, we talk about it almost every day".

"STAMPING OUT" Tony

Barry, Robin and Maurice lent a hand and a tongue to Tony Blackburn's radio campaign to raise money for charity – even if they did take him too literally when he asked to be "stamped out".

The boys went along to the studios to record appeals for postage stamps to be sent to D. J. Tony, who later sold them to raise money. He even got an impromptu Bee Gee composition called "Stamp Out".

Naturally Robin could not resist such a temptation and with Barry and Maurice licking and sticking with him, Tony soon found himself "stuck" on the Bee Gees. But it was all in a good cause!

THE CAKES WERE "GRAND"

Lu had a special surprise for Maurice and Robin on their 21st Birthday. She presented them with "twin" cakes shaped as grand pianos, and manager Robert Stigwood threw a lavish party at his home at Stanmore.

By the way they both want to thank you for all the cards you sent wishing them all the best. Things have been going really well ever since, so perhaps all those good wishes worked.

GERMANY'S BEST GROUP – YET AGAIN

There is no stopping those German fans. Although the boys only made it up in the last months of the year, the fans there voted them once again the Best Group in the World. The poll was among the readers of "Bravo", Germany's biggest and best music paper.

If you remember, the year before the same fans voted the Bee Gees the Best in a poll for the top twenty groups – and gave them more votes than the other 19 together.

Although the boys could not get away from their recording schedule to collect the "Golden Otto" award they do send all their German friends all their thanks. And they will be over to see you before long!

MR. AND MRS. BARRY GIBB

Barry and Linda made it to the Church on time — on time for Barry's 24th Birthday. It was a triple celebration after the wedding at Caxton Hall, because everyone was still overjoyed about the announcement shortly before that that the boys had settled their differences and were getting back together again.

Although the wedding was supposed to be "secret", about 500 people waited outside to greet them. The fans were all as good as gold, but not all the photographers were the same. All we saw was a lot of rowing and scuffling in the crowd, but the papers said the next day that a freelance photographer was arrested after a fight.

Still nothing could alter the happy day for Barry and his new bride.

"ON THE ROAD"

Talking of Tin Tin brings me back to another exciting thing I should tell you about. Tin Tin will be accompanying the Bee Gees on a two month tour of America in September and October. The boys, with Geoff and guitarist Alan Kendall, paid a flying visit to the USA in February — and it was just as if they hadn't been away. They played two concerts at the New York Philharmonic Hall, where Leonard Bernstein, the famous conductor, usually holds his classical concerts. At the end of each one the crowd mobbed the stage, and the boys had to be smuggled out of the hall to avoid the waiting crowds. One of the biggest music papers in America said of the shows: "The crowd thronged down the aisles to sit at the feet of these wondrous pop stars....." How about that for praise.

But before they go back, they will tour Israel as part of the celebrations to mark the 25th Anniversary of the State, and then go on to Australia. It will be the first time they have been back since they came to England, and "New York Mining Disaster" was released. They have got a lot of old friends to look up there, including Bill Gates, whose initials were the idea for the group's name!

When all that is over they hope to be able to play some concerts for us all in England.

JOTTINGS

There seems to be so many things to tell you, and I am rapidly running out of space. So I will try to get as many in as possible: Maurice and Lu have settled into their house in Hampstead, and have discovered that Ringo Starr lives almost next door. Mo and Ringo (he is called Richie by his friends) have become very good friends and have been making very funny home movies together. Maurice, Lu, Ringo and his wife Maureen had a skiing holiday together after the US tour. The instructor said that Lu was "a natural".....Barry and Linda are at the moment buying a house in Gerrards Cross, just down the road from where I live. It will be nice to have them so close.....Robin and Molly have had a cinema built into their house in Virginia Water, and the television is hardly ever on now as everyone prefers watching movies in the evenings.....Fashion note: Linda and Lu are both great hot pants fans, but Molly prefers the midi skirt. Which is good because Rob isn't very keen on hot pants.....Linda was 21 a couple of weeks back. Barry bought her a beautiful Royal Blue Lotus Elan as a present.....Robin has sold his Mercedes and now has a Maroon Rover, like the Prime Minister's he tells me.....Have you been to see the film "Melody" yet? The boys wrote all but one of the soundtrack songs, and Polydor have released it as an album. One of my favourite songs "In The Morning", is on it, and it's the first time that the boys have ever recorded it! .....Maurice has ordered a very special guitar – with two necks. It will take eight months to make, but when he gets it it will mean that he doesn't have to change from bass to guitar on stage.....Robin is eating lots of carrots just now. He claims that they are good for your eyes (because he has never seen a rabbit wearing specs).....Watch out for the Andy Williams Show, the Boys recorded one while they were in Hollywood and it will be seen here very shortly.....Maurice and Lu's brother Billy Lawrie were responsible for writing and producing Lu's new single "Everybody Clap". Now Lu's sessions lately have included such "underground" stars as Jack Bruce, John Bonham, Ringo and Maggie Bell.....The boys have written a song called "Israel". And it is to be released as a single in Israel just before their tour there.

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Well, that's the end of my first Newsletter. I feel that there are so many things I have forgotten, but I am sure that you have all had that feeling when you have just written a letter to a friend. I shall try to keep notes as we go along for the next one, which won't be too long, I hope. Lots of love, and see you soon,

Barbara

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